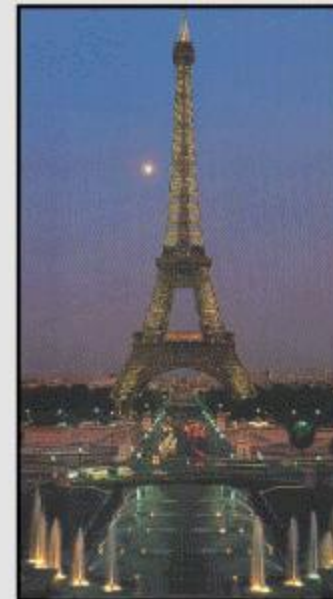




PARIS FRANCE

CENTRAL CITY TOURIST MAP

The French capital for over a thousand years, Paris controls the larger part of France's economy, an economy second only to Germany's in Europe. Known commonly throughout the world as the "City of Light," the Paris region dominates a wide area extending from Normandy in the west, around Picardy and Champagne to the north and east, and through the Beauce country of Chartres between the Seine and the Loire to the North. Within this geographic area, the Région d'Île-de-France (one of 22 French metropolitan regions) covers a little over 12,000 square km. Paris's 11 million inhabitants (just under a fifth of the French total) are concentrated onto about 2 percent of the territory of France. Paris is divided into 20 districts called arrondissements which spiral out in circles from the center; Parisians have come to strongly identify with their particular quartier (neighbourhood). Paris's esteemed cultural heritage ensures that it retains its status as the most visited city in the world. Towering French artists include authors Flaubert and Proust, Impressionist artists Monet and Seurat, and nouvelle vague ("new wave") film-makers Godard and Truffaut. Their respective 1959 films À Bout de souffle (Breathless) and Les quatre cents coups (The 400 Blows) were shot on location primarily in Paris and consequently immortalized the city in the eyes of cineastes worldwide.



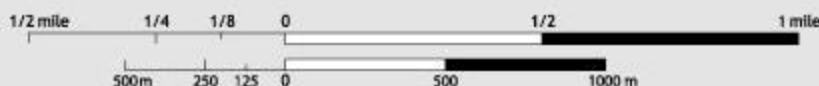
Tour Eiffel (F2)
In 1887, Gustave Eiffel's cast-iron monument design was selected to showcase the 1889 Universal Exposition celebrating the centennial of the French Revolution. All 15,000 metal parts were prefabricated and numbered for assembly, and most of the 2.5 million rivets were already in place before the tower went up. 300 steelworkers toiled 7 days a week for 26 months, ensuring that the building would be completed 7 days before the exhibition opened. The tower offers a superb view that extends up to 73 km on a clear day. Its five million annual visitors rarely include Parisians, who often snub it as the ultimate in kitsch.

Musée du Louvre (D11)

Construction of the Louvre began in 1190 when King Philippe-Auguste built a massive fortress surrounded by a wall and towers on the western edge of Paris before setting out on a crusade. In the 14th century, it was turned into a royal residence. In 1793 the Musée Central des Arts was inaugurated at the Louvre, which then opened as a museum, marking a turning point in its history. Its collection includes sculpture, objets d'art, antiquities, drawings, and paintings. A staff of 1,600 keep the Louvre running. Close to 60 curators watch over the 350,000 works of art, of which only about 30,000 are on display at a given time. I.M. Pei's controversial pyramid shocked many when it was unveiled in 1989 as the new main entrance to the museum; the glass pyramid has virtually the same dimensions as the Egyptian pyramid of Cheops in Giza.



SCALE

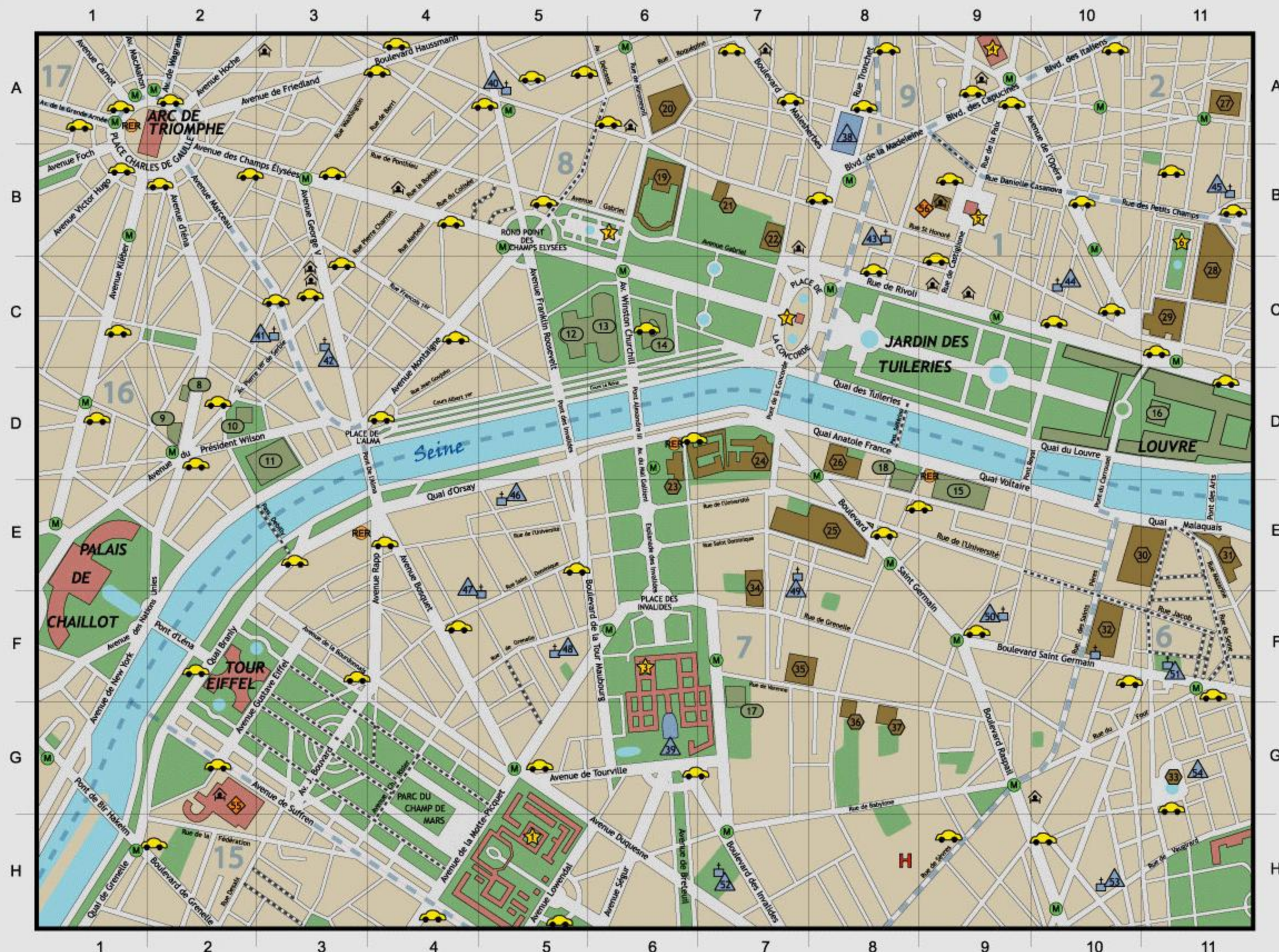


LEGEND

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| HOSPITAL | MAJOR SITE |
| TAXI STAND | PARK |
| CHURCH | WATER |
| MAJOR HOTEL | STREET |
| METRO STATION | WALKWAY |
| RER STATION | ARRONDISSEMENT BOUNDARY |
| | ARRONDISSEMENT |

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Arc de Triomphe (A2)

Parisians still call the square surrounding the Arc de Triomphe l'Étoile ("the star"), despite its 1970 name change to the Place Charles-de-Gaulle. The name refers to the twelve avenues radiating from it, with the Arc de Triomphe at its center, the ultimate symbol of French pride and military power. Completed in 1836, it is 50 m high and 45 m wide, the largest arch of its kind ever built. Napoleon's ashes passed under the arch on their way to Les Invalides, as did Victor Hugo's funeral cortege. The conquering armies—the Prussians in 1871 and the Germans in 1940—that marched here were succeeded by France's heroic liberators, such as General Charles-de-Gaulle who led the victory march before thousands of elated Parisians on August 26, 1944.